



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

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CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

MARION COUNTY CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON FEDERAL FIREARM AND AMMUNITION CHARGE

Ocala, Florida - Senior United States District Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges on Wednesday sentenced an Ocala man, NOE GONZALES, JR., to fifteen years in federal prison on a charge of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. In addition to the prison term, Gonzales must serve three years on supervised release and pay a \$100 special monetary assessment. Gonzales had entered a guilty plea to the charge on September 19, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at sentencing, agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the Ocala Police Department executed a search warrant at Gonzales' residence on April 16, 2007. As a result of the search warrant, agents recovered five firearms, including a handgun with an obliterated serial number, 225 rounds of ammunition, powder cocaine and more than twenty-three pounds of marijuana. A subsequent investigation of Gonzales also led to the recovery of six semi-automatic rifles with obliterated serial numbers and \$50,000 in drug proceeds. Gonzales, an Armed Career Criminal under the federal sentencing guidelines, is prohibited from possessing either firearms or ammunition under federal law.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Marion County, the City of Ocala Police Department, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and ATF. This is another case

prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.